

PEMBINA TRAILS SCHOOL DIVISION

WARD 1

Tony BUCHEL – no response at this time

Darren CHRISTLE –

“I would like to start with introducing myself and sharing some of my education and background which you may find surprising considering the nature of the question presented.

My family and I have lived in Charleswood for over 23-years and my daughter completed her K-12 education within the Pembina Trails School Division. I am a dedicated like long learner. I’ve completed an Undergraduate Degree and a Masters Degree in Public Administration, 3 college programs and 3 professional designations - all while working full-time. You may be interested to note, that my professional designations are all related to transportation and logistics.

One of my first interactions with a former city councillor, was to advocate for road maintenance near a local Elementary School. The brush and tree overgrowth covering the sidewalk contributed to children walking on the side of the road, to and from school. The poor road condition resulted in traffic swerving around pot holes. These two situations were a recipe for potential disaster. I would like to hope that my advocacy contributed to road repairs be initiated extremely quickly after bring this safety issue to light.

Similar types of situations cannot be allowed to happen. Our children are vulnerable to safety risks which they may not recognize. Its our job as parents and neighbours to address this proactively. I believe that passive traffic controls (speed bumps) are wise in non-arterial streets adjacent to school zones. I support the lowering of speed limits in school zones and applaud the CAA and Manitoba Public Insurance & other concerned stakeholders for supporting School Patrol Program. At certain points in my life, I have been member of Operation Safe Driver, the No-Zone Campaign, and Operation Lifesaver. I found the 2011 Manitoba Active Transportation Advisory Group (MATAG) report, “*Greater Strides: Taking Action on Active Transportation*” both interesting and informative.

I believe that dedicated bike lanes are a must, not just nice to have. However, I advocate for a curb or complete traffic separation between bike riders and motorized traffic. For me, an extra line on the roadway designating a bike lane, is an improvement, but not a perfect solution. This should be a consistent factor in better transportation and community planning.

With respect to walkways, I believe that they should be accessible and reasonably maintained, especially in the winter. Clearing walkways in school areas should have priority status after major snow falls.

I congratulate the successes of the Winnipeg Trails Association and am a frequent user of the Assiniboine Forest trail(s).”

Jaime GLENAT –

“I think that consideration for active transportation programs and policies in our division is worth exploring more fully and would support reviewing transportation policies and staffing resources in consideration of this and in conjunction with School Travel Planning. I would like the Board to examine ways to support schools to initiate active transportation programs and offer information sessions to assess school needs for parent and school communities. I would also consider the possibility of including an active transportation component in the School Patrol program, in conjunction with other community partners, developing opportunities for walking school busses, and participating in Bike to Work Week or the Commuter Challenge. Finally, I would encourage the placement of idle-free areas in school zones. This would help to improve air quality, particularly for those children with health concerns like asthma.”

Gerry MELNYK –

“I have promoted and supported initiatives that encourage sustainable practice throughout our school communities. Sustainability relating to active transportation includes emphasis on three caveats: People, Community and Environment. By promoting and providing safe routes to school we can encourage students to adopt active healthy lifestyles, reduce traffic volume and congestion and increase community-mindedness. There are however, limitations due to infrastructure (for example in Ward 1, Charleswood), where there are lengthy narrow roadways with ditches, which are challenging from a safety perspective. Other parts of Ward 1 could lend themselves to adopting an active transportation protocol, but this would require local school planning and initiatives to promote such a program. Those schools that have identified a willingness to adopt such a protocol have been supported. Furthermore, the City of Winnipeg would be required to plan a more inviting infrastructure in order that these kinds of measures could be adopted and implemented. With the continued advocacy by organizations such as yourselves (Green Action Centre) and such promotions as the International Walk to School Month (IWALK), there will be greater awareness and support for the adoption of active transportation at all schools.”

Dianne ZUK –

“I firmly support active transportation throughout the city and in particular my area of Charleswood. I enjoy riding my bicycle around the neighbourhood and biking to the store. I am a supporter of the Harte Trail.

Safety of our students is a major priority. As a current Trustee with the Pembina Trails School Division I have supported initiatives such as the Walking School Bus and the Walking & Cycling Map developed for a portion of the Division. I would like to see such a project for the whole Division. Pembina Trails has been very active in promoting sustainability and many of our schools are involved in wonderful projects such as creating gardens and being awarded the status of an Earth School. When designing new schools or additions, safety and transportation are always important considerations. If re-elected in Ward 1, I will continue to ensure safety for our children through support of special projects, working with schools and the community.”

WARD 2

Sheila BILLINGHURST – no response at this time

Christiane DEVLIN –

“Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to share my views and thoughts on how to ensure children can safely walk and bike to school. In my opinion, there are many students who do walk or bike to school and reinforcing the positives, providing facilities i.e. bike lock ups, etc... would make this priority a possibility for many other students. I have witnessed some of the effectiveness of programs such as \$10 bike helmets that make it affordable for children to safely ride their bike. Integrating this priority through leadership programs i.e. older students walking in community with younger students, school clubs i.e. marathon club and physical education classes (i.e. healthy lifestyle) could be strategies that make the priority a possibility within existing programs and with costs both to the schools and families taken into consideration.”

Andrew HARDER - no response at this time

David JOHNSON –

“Over the last number of years fewer students have been walking to school or riding their bikes. Instead more and more parents are driving their children to school creating traffic congestion and safety issues. I believe that promoting active transportation in our communities must be a priority. Schools need to analyze current patterns and develop transportation plans to encourage walking and cycling. Promoting walking school buses and working with the city to develop bike paths would be an important start.”

Tim JOHNSON - no response at this time

WARD 3

Marty DANIELSON - no response at this time

Julie FISHER –

I believe that active transportation is important to a community. My family and I walk and bike in our neighbourhood on a regular basis. Schools play a major role in educating children on how to be safe in their surroundings. Patrol programs, adult crossing guards and parent communication regarding safe driving habits around schools aid in keeping children safe. Children use a variety of routes to get to

school such as sidewalks, catwalks, paths and fields. As a trustee I would encourage the school division to communicate with the city to highlight these routes and request that they be given high priority for snow clearing to make our schools more accessible.

Laureen GOODRIDGE - no response at this time

Osaed KHAN - no response at this time

Kathleen McMILLAN –

I place a **high priority on Active Transportation** and I recognize that Pembina Trails School Division has an unprecedented opportunity to take a leadership role in active transportation, child safety and infrastructure through the building of the 6 schools planned in the Waverley West sub-division (five K-8 schools, and one high school).

The Pembina Trails School Division “New School Construction” policy states: “that the school planning committee will be appointed by the Board and may consist of representatives from parents and the community”.

Because I have very little professional expertise in this area, and because I treat this request with the same importance as your members do, I will not attempt to win-over your readership by re-iterating catch phrases plucked from the internet.

Rather, to **confirm the priority I place on this issue** I commit to recommend that the Board appoint a community member endorsed by the Green Action Centre to sit on the Interdisciplinary Design Process (IDP) committee. This representative will be part of the interdisciplinary Design Process (IDP) that begins with the school’s concept plan and result with the opening of a new school.

Further, I fully support the concept of “neighbourhood schools” to facilitate and encourage students to walk or bike to school. I believe, after re-reading the Waverley West Area Structure Plan, that the Vision of having an “internal road network, recreation trail system, and pedestrian network interconnecting schools, parks, recreation facilities, commercial areas and other neighbourhood amenities and nodes to one another, **contributes to the walkability and community centred focus of Waverley West**”.

To **realize this Vision**, and decrease or eliminate the increased emphasis on bussing, the Division **must proceed with building** the schools planned for the communities of Waverley West.

The building of public schools does not rest under the exclusive control of any one partner, and I recognize a considerable number of partners must work together in the planning and construction of new schools. Therefore:

I commit to support (and help expedite) the planning, design, tendering and construction of the newly announced school in South Pointe;

I commit to support (and help expedite) the preparation of the Request for Proposals (RFP) relating to the design and construction of the planned schools for Waverley West, and

I commit to represent the interests of the constituents of the School Division in New Development Planning, and to fairly represent their best interests when liaising with local developers, the City of Winnipeg, and the Public Schools Finance Board.

In close I wish to thank the Green Action Centre for this opportunity to showcase the positions of all candidates. Everyone has a stake in the success of public schools; everyone can have a role to play – be it in the classroom, the boardroom, or at the ballot box on Election Day.

Cindy NACHTIGALL-

“I have enthusiastically been involved in initiatives surrounding active transportation in South Winnipeg which include community visioning and the development of a walking/cycling map for the area as a result of Bike, Walk and Roll. I am proud of the incredible strides our community has taken in support of this cause as well as the elementary schools in our ward for their implementation of the Walking School Bus Program and Walk Your Child to School Day. In the past three years my advocacy has grown with involvement in Neighborhood's Alive initiatives. I was invited to partake in a meeting with the City of Winnipeg, the Province, community members and the Green Action Committee. This meeting garnered a promise to revisit the timing of the lights in the area due to concern for safety after two pedestrian accidents had occurred. At this same meeting, the need for a safe walking/cycling path would be addressed to proceed in conjunction with repair of the overpass at the south perimeter.

One of my priorities for active transportation is the need for development of safe transportation options to schools for at risk areas when the temperature is colder than -27 (with the wind-chill) as truancy rates are deeply impacted. Ensuring that safe active transportation options are available for every age and stage of life in our community will continue to be an important focus for me.”